Our thanks are due to Mr. Swan and Mr. Young for presenting us with these remarkable birds.

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Harrison, James M. and Jeffery G. (1958). "The White Neck-spot Variant in the European Green-winged Teal and the Yellow-billed Teal". *Bull. B.O.C.* Vol. 78. pp. 104–105.

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Notes on the distribution and eggs of some waterfowl

by C. J. O. Harrison

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During a recent rearrangement of the eggs of the Anseriformes in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History) use was made of Delacour's "Waterfowl of the World" (1954–8). It was found that some of the data slips with the eggs gave information supplementary to that quoted in Delacour's work.

Anser cygnoides (L). Delacour, when tracing the earliest records of this species in captivity, suspected that the birds kept at the London Zoo in 1863 were not the wild Swan Goose but its domesticated form, the Chinese Goose. These suspicions were well founded for eggs laid at the London Zoo during this period and now in the Museum collection are mostly inscribed "Black-legged Chinese Goose", indicating that the domestic bird was kept there at this time.

Anser albifrons albifrons (Scopoli). Two eggs of this species (B. M. no. 1925. 12. 25. 5346–5) from the Davidson collection are accompanied by the following data in J. Davidson's catalogue—

"Two out of a clutch of four taken on Franz Josef Land (Cape Chance) 21. 6. 98, and sent to me by Mr. Dobbie. Taken Lunderstrand by Dr. W. S. Bruce."

Delacour's map of the distribution of this species does not show the breeding range extending thus far into the Arctic.

Coscoroba coscoroba (Molina). Four well-authenticated clutches of the eggs of this species (B. M. no. 1913. 5. 7. 57–63; 1920. 12. 3. 568–574, 575–581, 582–589) were taken in the Buenos Aires province of Argentina by Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Gibson. One is dated 29th June 1889, and another 18th August 1915.

There are two other clutches of this species with less adequate data inscribed "Rio Grande do Sul". One, of six eggs, is from Dr. Ihering's collection, the other, of two eggs, from the P. Crowley collection, ex Gerrard, and both would have been collected in the nineteenth century and may have originally formed a single clutch.

Delacour's map of the breeding distribution sets the northern limit of this species at the Rio Negro, but all the eggs mentioned were collected well north of this. In view of the date of the clutches it seems possible that this may represent a shrinking of the breeding range due to the spread of civilisation in this part of South America.

Anser coerulescens coerulescens (L.). A clutch of five eggs was taken by M. D. Smith at Great Slave Lake in Canada on 26th June 1884. (B. M. no. 1901. 11. 15. 651–5). Delacour does not show this species breeding south of the Great Bear Lake, farther north.

Branta canadensis asiatica Aldrich. It is stated that the eggs of this

extinct race of Canada Goose are unknown. A single egg in the collection (B. M. no. 1910. 1. 1. 5848) taken by H. J. Snow on the Kurile Islands, is elliptical, creamy-white, with a slightly rough surface, and measures 87.4 x 55.1 mm.

Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea (Eyton). In part of its range in Chile the breeding distribution of this duck overlaps that of *Oxyura vittata* (R. A. Philippi) which is present over most of southern South America. The two species are very similar in appearance but *O. j. ferruginea* is the larger of the two. The eggs of *O. vittata* from various parts of its range fall within the limits—length 62–8 mm. breadth 44–9 mm. According to Delacour the eggs of *O. j. ferruginea* are undescribed. An examination of the eggs in the Museum collection revealed that, among eggs which, from their size, were referable to *O. vittata* there were four larger eggs (B. M. no. 1898. 1. 4. 654, 656–7, 660). These measured 72.6 x 54, 73 x 49.9, 71 x 50.8, 70.5 x 50.2 mm. They were typical *Oxyura* eggs, more ovate than elliptical and creamy-white with a finely pitted surface. They had a rather glossier surface than the eggs of *O. vittata*, resembling in this respect the eggs of *O. j. jamaicensis* (Gmelin) in the collection which are still more glossy. It is reasonable to suspect that these are the eggs of *O. j. ferruginea*, but confirmation of this description is still needed.

On the races of *Estrilda nonnula* (Hartlaub)

by H. E. Wolters

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When comparing a series of 15 adult specimens of both sexes of *Estrilda nonnula* (Hartlaub), collected by Prof. M. Eisentraut on the Cameroon Mountain in 1957 and 1958, with a series of 29 specimens from various parts of the species' range, most of which were kindly lent by the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale at Tervuren, it was at once apparent, that Cameroon Mountain birds represent an extremely well differentiated subspecies. Birds from all levels of this mountain are much greyer on the underparts than specimens of any other part of the range and agree with the description of *Estrilda elizae* Alexander, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 13, p. 54 (1903), formerly thought to be restricted to Fernando Po. Four females from other districts of Cameroon (M'balmayo, Mus. Bonn; Bitye, River Ya, Mus. Tervuren) are also darker underneath than females from the more eastern parts of the species' range, but have the underparts much more brownish-grey, not so pure grey as in Cameroon Mountain birds; these females are nearly matched, however, by one male from Nandi (Kenya Colony, Mus. Tervuren) and one unsexed bird from Astrida, Ruanda (Mus. Tervuren).

All other birds of the more eastern parts of the range are much lighter on the underparts, sometimes nearly pure white, although there appears to be a tendency to be tinged with fawn in fresh plumage, especially in birds from Uganda and the Kivu district; two males from Ruwenzori (6,000 and 7,000 ft.) are somewhat greyer than other eastern birds, but by far less so than birds from the Cameroon Mountain. Although I have not seen topotypical material of *Estrilda nonnula nonnula* (*Astrilda nonnula* Hartlaub, Journ. Orn., 31, p. 425: Kudurma), there are no reasons to doubt that Bahr el Ghazal birds agree with other birds of East Africa, and